

news

Issue 1 Summer 2007



The Launch at The Carnarvon Arms

The launch on the 7 June 2007 was a great success. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch in an atmosphere of great optimism and excitement. This was helped by our host for the day, Clare Balding who is also the founder patron. She explained how she has been involved in Swings & Smiles right from the start, something she finds particularly rewarding and she left everyone in no doubt that there is a desperate need for this facility and that **it will happen**.

Mark Norgate from Donnington New Homes informed everyone that he has offered the land for this project. He is unable to specify the location at the moment. He has in fact sufficient land that will enable housing to be built alongside Swings & Smiles which will generate the money needed to pay for the construction of the building. It is hoped that a planning application will be submitted towards the end of July.

Clare informed the guests that Mark was embarking on the Three Peaks Challenge the next day. He has, in fact, successfully completed the challenge with ten minutes to spare!

Clare highlighted the sponsored parachute jump that is taking place next month – please see the separate note overleaf.

Clare announced that Mary Cameron has recently agreed to be a patron as has Graeme Murty, captain of Reading F.C. who will be actively supporting the charity.

Clare, Sian and her daughter, Amy, unveiled the logo which was designed by Cream Design in Reading. All thought it a fantastic logo which captured what the project is all about.

Sian Cook summarised by thanking all who had helped to make her dream a reality and asked guests to continue with their support by providing any help they could by completing the attached form. The raffle concluded the event. This was drawn by Caroline Henry, Director of A-Z Autoparts, sponsors of the launch.



Charitable Status and Trustees

Swings & Smiles was incorporated as a registered company on the 26 March 2007 with Sian Cook and Susan Langley as directors and Graham Page (Bursar at The Castle School) as the Company Secretary. Charitable Status has been applied for and Sian and Susan will be joined by Sue Roberts, Helen Waring and Mike Reynolds as fellow trustees. We will let you know just as soon as we are a registered charity. This will then enable us to apply for grants and develop our fundraising.

Sponsored Tandem Parachute Jump

David Foster who works in the Access Department in the Council first met Amy a year ago. He is himself disabled with cerebral palsy and wheelchair-bound but considers himself lucky compared with Amy as he has always had play options. He decided he would like to do something to raise money to help Amy, and others like her, to enjoy life. He decided to do sponsored tandem parachute jump and has managed to persuade four others from the Planning Department to join him.



This will take place on Independence Day (4 July) at Netheravon Airfield, Andover as he hopes that the funds raised will give more independence to disabled children in this area.

If you would like to sponsor David Foster, Gary Lugg, Derek Carnegie, Steve Broughton and Sarah Spencer,

who will be jumping on Wednesday 4 July, you can do so by donating using on-line banking or taking a cheque and paying it in at any Lloyds Bank to the following bank account :

Account Name: **Swings & Smiles**

Account Number: **03256931**

Sort Code: **30-95-89**

Thank you!

Kick FM

West Berkshire's Kick FM were present at the launch. At the end, they announced that they had reached the decision that they would like to make Swings & Smiles their chosen charity for the coming year. This was wonderful news as all their fundraising initiatives will be for Swings & Smiles and with their 30,000 listeners, more and more people will hear about Swings & Smiles and its progress.

Wanted!

Swings & Smiles needs a treasurer as soon as possible. This will involve approximately one day's work a month. If you or anyone you know would like to offer their services, please contact Sian on 01635 38129 or 07940 134112.

Future Events

The Carnarvon Arms, Burghclere, is hosting a Casino Royale night on Saturday 28 July in aid of Swings & Smiles. £2 per ticket sold plus any donations made for playing the game will be given to Swings & Smiles. This should be a really enjoyable evening : a delicious 3-course meal plus playing on one of the tables which will each have a croupier managing the game all for £32.95. If you would like to book or find out more, please call 01635 278222. We hope to see you there!

www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk